

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 9, 2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Amendments

Claim 1 and 10 have been amended. Amendment to claim 1 requires the nano-objects to be made essentially of a metal. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraph 0011 on page 3, paragraph 0053 on page 9, and paragraph 0062 on page 10 of the Specification. Claim 10 is rewritten as an independent claim. Support for the amendment can be found in claims 1 and 10 as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 USC §102(e) on the grounds that these claims are anticipated by the U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0088970 (hereinafter “Yu”). According to the Examiner, Yu discloses nano-objects “being characterized in that the nano-objects are made of a metal and are formed on the surface of a substrate (302) made of a monocrystalline semiconducting material.” *See* paragraph 4, page 2 of the 10/9/2007 Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Yu describes quantum structures that have photo-catalytic properties. *See* paragraph 0001, page 1 of Yu, Field of the Invention. According to Yu, “various metal oxides, such as Cu₂O, TiO₂, SrTiO₃, exhibit desirable characteristics such as photo catalysis properties,” and “[s]uch oxides may be included or used in connection with quantum structures.” *See* paragraph 0002, lns. 1-4, page 1 of Yu. All the examples in Yu require the use of metal oxides as the key photo-catalytic ingredient, not metal itself. *See e.g.* Example 2, paragraph 0039, lns. 11-13, page 3 of Yu. The claims in Yu also specify quantum structure having photo-catalytic properties and made of “a monocrystalline metal oxide layer,” such as copper and oxygen, or TiO₂. *See e.g.* claims 1, 28, and 55 of Yu. Yu does not teach or even suggest the use of metal alone in obtaining nano-structures. Thus, it is Applicants’ belief that what is described in Yu is different from what is described and claimed in this application. Thus, Applicants respectfully submits withdrawal of the grounds for rejection under 35 USC §102(e)

To further clarify these differences, Applicants submit this amendment, amending claim 1 to require the nano-objections to be made essentially of a metal, not metal oxide. Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1, and the amendment to claim 1 is therefore incorporated into each of claims 2-9. Applicants believe that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes or renders moot all outstanding rejections of the Examiner, and entry of the amendment and allowance to issue of claims 1-9 are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 10-11 stand objected as to being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants believe that the amendment to claim 10 overcomes or renders moot all outstanding objections and entry of the amendment and allowance to issue of claims 10-11 are respectfully requested.

Withdrawn Claims

The Examiner is authorized to cancel the withdrawn claims in order to pass this application to issue.

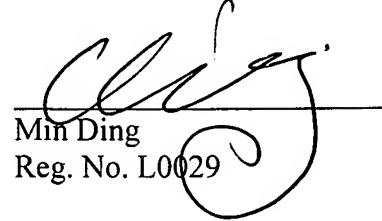
Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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Reg. No. L0029

Dated: March 8, 2008

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